Attempts by Pakistan to seek American Involvement in Resolving Kashmir Dispute

*730. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N.E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of Pakistan, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Leghari has sought America's active involvement in resolving the Kashmir dispute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have seen reports to the effect that the President of Pakistan during his visit to the US on May 20-31, 1994 sought that the US must remain actively engaged in addressing Kashmir issue. Government are of the view all differences between India and Pakistan, including aspects relating to J&K issue, should be resolved peacefully and through bilateral negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement and there can be no role of any sort for any third party.

Clearance of Proposal for Expansion of Gujarat Refinery

*731. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the plan of Indian Oil Corporation for expansion of its Gujarat Refinery;

(b) if so, what is the total expenditure involved and what will be the foreign exchange component; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed and what will be the increase in the Refinery's capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited has submitted a proposal to the Govenment for 3 MMTPA Crude distillation unit, Revamp of Feed Preparation Unit (FPU/Fluidised Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU) of Gujarat Refinery and Augmentation of Salaya-Viramgam-Koyali Crude Oil Pipeline. The proposal has been considered by the Public Investment Board (PIB) who recommended its approval. The estimated cost as per Detailed Feasibility Report is approximately Rs. 897 crores including foreign exchange component of Rs. 71 crores. The project is expected to be mechanically completed within 36 months from the date of Governments approval. With the implementation of the project, the refining capacity of the refinery is expected to increase from the existing level of 9.5 MMTPA to 12.5 MMTPA.

Need for more Government Hospitals in Rural Areas

*732. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government hospitals in the country including those of States and other hospitals alongwith their number in rural and urban areas;

(b) the average number of persons catered to by such hospitals in rural and urban areas separately;

(c) the number of private hospitals and average patients treated by them; and

(d) what are Government's plans to increase the number of hospitals in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As on 1.1.1992, there were 3568 and 7606 hospitals in rural and urban areas